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cont

(b) releasing the therapeutic or diagnostic agent from the endosome into the cell cytoplasm by the action of the transport agent on the endosomal membrane.

74. (Amended) A composition for delivering a therapeutic or diagnostic agent to a cell, comprising a combination of (a) a transport agent and (b) a therapeutic or diagnostic agent, wherein the transport agent is effective in disrupting the endosomal membrane, and wherein the transport agent comprises a polycarboxylic acid polymer that is hydrophilic at about pH 7.4 and hydrophobic at pH from about 5.1 to about 5.5.

101. (New) A method for delivering a therapeutic or diagnostic agent to a cell, comprising:

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(a) treating a cell with a combination of a transport agent and a therapeutic or diagnostic agent, wherein the combination is taken into the cell by endocytosis to provide an endosome having an endosomal membrane and containing the combination, and wherein the transport agent comprises a poly(alkylacrylic acid) selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylacrylic acid), poly(propylacrylic acid), poly(butylacrylic acid), and mixtures thereof; and

(b) releasing the therapeutic or diagnostic agent from the endosome into the cell cytoplasm by the action of the transport agent on the endosomal membrane.

102. (New) A composition for delivering a therapeutic or diagnostic agent to a cell, comprising a combination of (a) a transport agent and (b) a therapeutic or diagnostic agent, wherein the transport agent comprises a poly(alkylacrylic acid) selected from the group consisting of poly(ethylacrylic acid), poly(propylacrylic acid), poly(butylacrylic acid), and mixtures thereof.